

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SCCT-02 SAB-01

SAM-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 210731Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1960

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4211

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, JO

SUBJ: GOE-GOJ JOINT COMMUNIQUE

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REF: A. CAIRO 5370 B. AMMAN 4209

1. SUMMARY: IN CONTRAST TO INTERPRETATION BY EGYPTIAN PRESS, JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT SEES HUSSEIN-SADAT AS NOT RPT NOT CONC-EDING HASHEMITE ROLE TO PLO TO REPRESENT WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. GOJ HOWEVER REALIZES THAT COMMUNIQUE SUFFICIENTLY AMBIGUOUS TO PERMIT CONTRADICTORY INTERPRETATIONS. JORDANIANS BELIEVE THAT FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT POINT WAS GOJ ACHIEVEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE OF SADAT BACKING FOR JORDANIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT "AS A FIRST STEP". END SUMMARY.

2. IN PARA 2 REFTEL EMBASSY CAIRO ASKED ABOUT GOJ INTERPRETATION OF KEY SENTENCE IN SADAT-HUSSEIN COMMUNIQUE (AMMAN 4209) "PLO IS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PALESTINIANS RESIDING IN THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN". GOJ INTERPRETATION IS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT FROM CAIRO PRESS VERSION OF FAHMY INTERPRETATION IN REFTEL. GOJ POSITION AS EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS BY BOTH MIN INFO ABU ODEH AND MIN OCCUPIED AFFAIR AL MASRI (WHO WERE BOTH ON DELEGATION) IS THAT PALESTINIANS RESIDING IN HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN DO INDEED INCLUDE THOSE ON BOTH EAST AND WEST BANKS. MASRI SAID THAT GOJ DEL DID NOT FEEL THAT THEY COULD OBJECT TO FAHMY FORMULATION THAT JORDAN HELD WEST BANK "IN TRUST". HOWEVER LONGSTANDING JORDANIAN PROPOSAL TO HAVE REFERENDUM OR PLEBISCITE IN THAT AREA WOULD ACCORDING TO GOJ FULFILL ITS CONDITION OF "TRUST". UNTIL SUCH TIME, JORDAN WAS RECOGNIZED BY EGYPT ACCORDING TO MASRI AS HAVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACHIEVING RETURN OF WEST BANK TERRITORY. WE BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT GOJ WOULD CERTAINLY OBJECT TO AHAM INTERPRETATION PARA 2 CAIRO REFTEL THAT "PLO" REPRESENTS ALL PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK, GAZA AND "ABROAD".

3. OTHER PRINCIPAL POINT INCLUDES EXPLICIT USE OF LANGUAGE FOR FIRST TIME THAT PLO SHOULD PARTICIPATE INDEPENDENTLY IN GENEVA. GOJ DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THIS IS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS GOJ POSITION WHICH CONSISTED OF "NONOBJECTION" TO PLO PARTICIPATION.

4. MININFO ABU ODEH INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN PRESS IS OBVIOUSLY PLAYING COMMUNIQUE AS A PLO VICTORY, WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRARY TO WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED IN ALEXANDRIA, JORDAN IS NOT OBJECTING. HE SAID THAT JORDAN AND EGYPT MUST "HELP EACH OTHER" DEAL WITH DIFFICULT DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS AND THAT AS RESULT, JORDANIAN PRESS IS LETTING COMMUNIQUE SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

5. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, WE BELIEVE THAT COMMUNIQUE SUFFICIENTLY AMBIGUOUS ON REPRESENTATION OF WEST BANK PALESTINIANS THAT BOTH

SIDES SEEM CAPABLE OF PLAYING IT DIFFERENT WAYS FOR DOMESTIC AUDIENCES. FURTHERMORE, CONTESTING PARTIES WILL PROBABLY TRY TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITIONS IN FUTURE BY BUILDING ON THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERPRETATIONS.

6. ON BALANCE JORDANIANS BELIEVE THEY ARE NET WINNERS. WHILE GOJ HAS ACCORDED MORE EXPLICIT RECOGNITION OF PLO'S ROLE THAN IN PAST, GOJ BELIEVES IT HAS GAINED MUCH MORE IN PRACTICAL AND IMMEDIATE TERMS BY SECURING EXPLICIT PUBLIC EGYPTIAN SUPPORT IN COMMUNIQUE "ON NEED FOR REACHING A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ON THE JORDANIAN FRONT AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE JUST PEACEFUL SOLUTION". WE WILL NEVERTHELESS BE WATCHING CAREFULLY FOR WHAT EMERGES FROM UPCOMING TALKS BETWEEN SADAT AND ARAFAT.
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